

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- C1 b1 29. (Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the anionic surfactant is an alkyl sulfate [, for example sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)].
- C1 b2 35. (Amended) The method of claim [23] 34, wherein the polymer filter and/or the deep bed filter is a polypropylene filter.

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed February 21, 2002.

Applicants first note that a Preliminary Amendment was filed July 23, 1999, in which originally filed claims 1 to 22 were canceled and new claims 23 to 36 were added, which essentially parallel the subject matter of elected claims 1 to 14. Thus, claims 23 to 36 are pending and under examination.

Regarding the Claim Amendments

Claims 29 and 35 have been amended to address several informalities. In particular, claim 29 has been amended to delete the recitation "for example sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)." Claim 35 has been amended to depend from claim 34 instead of claim 23 in order to provide adequate antecedent basis for the recitation "polymer filter." Thus, as the amendments to claims 29 and 35 were made to address informalities, no new matter has been added and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Regarding the Claim Objections

Claims 26, 28, 30 and 32 to 35, which essentially parallel originally filed claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14, respectively, are no longer multiply dependent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

The rejection of claims 7, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite is respectfully traversed. The Examiner indicates that the phrase "for